

TRIBUTE TO ALFRED L. WATKINS

(Mr. ISAKSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to stand today and pay tribute to a man of great vision in my district, Alfred Watkins.

Twenty years ago, he took over the leadership of a brand-new high school in my community. He built a music program from 78 participants to the largest music program in public education east of the Mississippi River. His children have won the John Philip Sousa Award, the Louis Sudler Flag Award, a Grammy for the best music program in a public school, twice marched in the Grand Parade at the Tournament of Roses, the World's Fair, and the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.

But is his legacy the great music or the great music his children perform? No. It is countless numbers of young people who, through the discipline of participation and through the appreciation of music, are changing the lives of other people all over this country.

Alfred Watkins has been a visionary leader who has been great for our community and great for its children. Dr. Theodore Hesburgh once said, "Leadership requires that you have a vision, for without a vision, you cannot blow an uncertain trumpet." It is ironic that Alfred Watkins was a trumpeter, and his music are my district's children, who are a symphony of perfection in my district and in the lives of countless thousands of Americans.

CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY THREATENS HOMELAND SECURITY

(Mr. McDERMOTT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, the House is now throwing themselves as fast as they can at developing a homeland security plan. Somehow, however, we have forgotten half the problem. The problem of the external dangers we all know about, but Pogo, the cartoon character, once said, "We have discovered the enemy, and he is us."

We forget what the internal threats in this country really are. What we have watched on Wall Street is threatening the homeland security of all of us, our pensions, our health care, the economy, and whether we can retire. All those issues are in danger because of, as some of my colleagues say, a few bad apples.

In Washington State, where the apple is really the symbol of the State, we know if you have a bad apple in the barrel, it can ruin the whole barrel. The American people recognize that the barrel has bad apples in it, like the leadership of Halliburton and the leadership of Enron and the leadership of Harken and the leadership of all these companies.

Maybe we should throw some of those apples out of the barrel.

RESPONSIBLE FOREST MANAGEMENT

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, it is summertime, and out West it is the height of the fire season. Every day we ask our brave fire fighters to risk their lives to put out these dangerous blazes. Unfortunately, their job is made more difficult primarily due to extreme environmental groups.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture reported that nearly half of the 2002 projects to reduce wildfires and wildfire risks have been blocked by lawsuits brought by these same extreme environmental groups. These delays have significantly slowed efforts to remove the tinder-dry overgrowth out of our Federal forests and contributed greatly to the West's worst fire year on record. With half of the fire season left, more than 3 million acres have been lost to forest fires and wildfires, lost for all Americans to enjoy, lost for 100 years to come.

Today, the Subcommittee on Forests and Forest Health of the Committee on Resources will hold a hearing to address this issue. We need to find a way to end the misguided crusade against responsible forest management. Only then will we be able to prevent destructive wildfires that decimate our national forests.

BUSH DISCOVERS IMPORTANCE OF CORPORATE ACCOUNTABILITY

(Mr. DOGGETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, like a preacher welcoming every convert to the fold, we welcome all converts, no matter how belated their interest in controlling corporate corruption.

To date, this Administration's "See no evil, hear no evil" approach has produced and condoned a steady stream of corporate misconduct in this country. So long as more special-interest lobbyists are appointed to fill key regulatory roles and the Administration continues to conspire with House Republicans to undermine every genuine reform that is proposed, the President's newly professed concern amounts to little more than a fresh coat of paint on rotten wood, very rotten wood.

The American people can see right through the thin paint and see the damage that is caused to retirement savings, to investors' earnings, and to taxpayers that are cheated by corporations that use accounting tricks to avoid paying their fair share.

Our patience has been exploited and our trust has been taxed by the cul-

pable inaction, indifference, and complacency of this Administration and its House Republican allies.

LEXINGTON COUNTY PEACH FESTIVAL

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, South Carolina is the second largest producer of peaches in the Nation, and yesterday fresh peaches from South Carolina were hand delivered to every congressional office.

I would like to commend the efforts of the South Carolina Farm Bureau, the South Carolina Peach Council, and the interns and staffers for their efforts yesterday in delivering the peaches on Capitol Hill.

Last Thursday, I was honored to be the guest Speaker at the 44th annual Lexington County Peach Festival in Gilbert, South Carolina. This wonderful event is held every July 4th, a time for patriotic families to come together to celebrate the independence of our great Nation. The festival features a parade with wonderful floats and, of course, fresh peaches, peach ice cream, and peach cobbler available for everyone.

I would like to thank all the supporters and organizers of the Lexington County Peach Festival and especially the festival coordinator, Raymond Boozer, along with Gilbert mayor, Phil Price; First Lady Frances Price, and long-time parade coordinator, R. J. Taylor.

My family has attended 32 Lexington County Peach Festivals, and I look forward to many more years of this special July 4th celebration.

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CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY

(Mr. HINOJOSA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, recent corporate scandals, including Enron, WorldCom, Tyco, Merck, Rite-Aid, Xerox, and so many other corporations have demonstrated the need for our government to take action and bring order, justice, and trust back to our Nation's corporate infrastructure. Criminal practices put in place by high-paid executives demonstrate irresponsibility, hurt investors and employees, jeopardize innocent rank-and-file-worker pensions and retirement systems, and must come to an end.

We need to send strong legislation from this House that will make crooked accounting, cooked financial records, and careless corporate executives a thing of the past.

To do this effectively, we must craft legislation that puts fear in would-be corporate criminals. Stiff prison sentences for white collar criminals are a must and not an option.

High-level executives who have defrauded investors, misled employees, and mismanaged company pension funds must be held accountable.

I support legislation that requires honest accounting, independent investment advice, sensible regulation, and criminal penalties for those guilty of wrongdoing. We cannot have economic growth without eliminating corporate crime.

HIV/AIDS FUNDING

(Mr. KIRK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, the HIV epidemic is making headlines in the international AIDS conference in Barcelona. New projections concerning the disease show there is little good news.

Secretary Thompson leads the U.S. delegation, and I thank him for his recent commitment to work with China to fight HIV. The United States will sponsor collaboration with China using a \$14 million CDC grant for research on HIV prevention and treatment. China currently has over a million cases of HIV, estimated to rise to over 10 million by 2010. HIV has no cure, and prevention is our only means to fight it.

Since the President set a precedent for funding CDC work in China, he should also fund the U.N. population fund. UNFPA provides family planning services in 140 countries, including Mexico, and supports HIV awareness campaigns in 78 countries. The \$34 million approved by Congress for UNFPA is being held because UNFPA works in China, but we are now funding CDC work in China, so it is hard to see the distinction.

Mr. Speaker, we need every tool to fight this lethal disease. Our contribution to UNFPA will help reduce the immigration pressure on the United States, reduce the damage of overpopulation, and slow the spread of HIV. I urge the President to fund both CDC and UNFPA.

CORPORATE ACCOUNTABILITY

(Mr. PASCRELL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, the other evening the President provided a policy speech on corporate accountability. In response to the President's speech, business experts such as John Bogle, founder of Vanguard Group, stated that in terms of real substance of what will solve the problems, it does not get nearly as far as I would have hoped. I agree with Mr. Bogle, Mr. Speaker.

While the President discusses transparency and required disclosures by corporate executives, his own Vice President refuses to disclose which energy moguls sat in the White House and put together our energy policy.

None of us on either side of the aisle should be cavalier about these problems. These are systemic, serious problems. We are not talking about a few bad apples.

When regulators refuse to do their job, the result is that the American people are injured. Just look at the situation with Enron and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Members know Enron was manipulating the system. Lawmakers have been urging FERC to investigate market manipulation long before the Enron scandal broke.

When FERC's chairman, Pat Wood, who was handpicked by Enron's Ken Lay, joined FERC last June, he said it was FERC's job to act like a vigilant market cop walking the beat.

I would say the fox is guarding the hen house. These regulators ought to resign.

CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY

(Mr. KINGSTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, when I was selling football programs at the University of Georgia back when I was in junior high, I was robbed once. Two older kids beat me up and took about \$100. I felt humiliated and violated. Victims of crime, and I have talked to many victims of crime, it is a very personal thing.

But yet when somebody steals a worker's pension plan, their retirement money, or cooks the books and devalues the stock, there is no difference. In fact, I would say the criminals who come out of the closet and beat their victims up and take their money are, if anything, more noble than corporate CEOs who do this behind the books of accounting procedures and fancy talk, and certainly do not follow the general accounting principles.

That is why this House on April 24 passed corporate accountability. There is no difference between ethics and business ethics. Businesses have to operate with honesty and integrity. We need that in society. Too many widows and orphans are counting on their stock to be the value they claim it is worth. That is why people buy it in their retirement account.

I am glad that the Senate is moving on this legislation. We passed it out of the House 3 months ago, but let us get it to the conference committee so we can address corporate accountability. America needs it. Business integrity is important for the prosperity of our country.

CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY

(Mr. EHLERS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, some corporate executives have been lying and

cheating. They have betrayed their companies, their stockholders, their employees, and the public. I am angry about it. They are as bad as the previous speaker said, as bad as a street punk who mugs someone. It is totally unacceptable behavior.

At the same time, we have to recognize this is just a small fraction of the corporate executives in the country, just as the aberrant priests in the Catholic Church are a very small fraction of that church. Or the number of Members in this body who are accused and convicted of breaking the law are a small number of this body. Nevertheless, their behavior is totally unacceptable, and we have to take action.

It is not simply a matter of changing the law or strengthening the law, although that may be part of it. What we need is enforcement of the law. I am pleased President Bush went to Wall Street yesterday and spoke to them about the need for enforcing the law and enforcing regulations. We must do that. It is not just a matter of punishment, but we also should seek retribution from these highly paid executives who have cheated employees out of their 401(k) accounts, who betrayed stockholders and reduced the value of the company; and not only that, have scared the American public from participating in the stock market.

Mr. Speaker, it is high time that our Nation take action against these individuals, both through regulation and enforcement of the law. I hope it happens soon. The American people are angry at this betrayal of the free enterprise system. I am angry about it, and we have to see that something is done about it.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2486, INLAND FLOOD FORECASTING AND WARNING SYSTEM ACT OF 2002

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 473 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 473

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2486) to authorize the National Weather Service to conduct research and development, training, and outreach activities relating to tropical cyclone inland forecasting improvement, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Science. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. It shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Science now printed in the